

B17

1) Using "reversible writing heat-sensitive paper" and "reversible writing methods," the entire surface is conditioned to a solid colored state, beforehand, and the surface is partially uncolored during operation to write information. Therefore, a conventionally used opto-thermal conversion layer with a short life can be omitted, taking advantage of the opto-thermal conversion characteristics of the solid colored state, and the life of the entire reversible heat-sensitive paper can be prolonged. In addition, because the paper is required to be heated almost to a color-erasing temperature range, which is lower than the melting temperature, writing can be achieved using a weak light source (for instance, laser equipment with a small output).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claim 2 without prejudice and replace claims 1 and 3-5 with the amended claims as follows:

B18

1. (amended) A reversible heat-sensitive paper comprising a reversible heat-sensitive recording layer ; wherein the reversible heat-sensitive recording layer comprises an electron donative dyestuff precursor and a reversible developer that colors and uncolors the electron donative precursor; and

made by the process of heating the reversible heat-sensitive recording layer to a fused state, then quickly cooling the paper to a solid colored state.

B19

3. (amended) A method of writing information on a reversible heat-sensitive paper, comprising the steps of:

preparing a reversible heat-sensitive paper comprising a reversible heat-sensitive layer that

comprises an electron donative dyestuff precursor and a reversible developer that colors and uncolors the electron donative precursor, by heating the reversible heat sensitive layer to a molten state and then quickly cooling to a solid colored state; and

heating a part of the reversible heat-sensitive recording layer to a color-erasing temperature range that is lower than the melting temperature of the reversible heat sensitive recording layer, wherein the part is uncolored and stores the information.

4. (amended) A method of writing information on a reversible heat-sensitive paper, comprising the steps of:

preparing the reversible heat-sensitive paper comprising a reversible heat-sensitive recording layer that comprises an electron donative precursor and a reversible developer that colors and uncolors the electron donative precursor, formed on a supporting base;

irradiating the reversible heat-sensitive paper with light;

heating an irradiated part so that the reversible heat-sensitive recording layer is heated to a molten state, then quickly cooling the irradiated part to produce a colored portion; and

irradiating the colored portion with light partially in superimposition to produce a double irradiated portion, and uncoloring the doubled irradiated portion by maintaining the portion in a color-erasing temperature range that is lower than the melting temperature of the reversible heat-sensitive recording layer, for a predetermined time.

5. (amended) A method of writing information onto a reversible heat sensitive paper according to claim 1, comprising positioning an exposing mask between a light source and the reversible heat sensitive paper, transmitting light through the mask and focusing light on the

Serial No. 09/422,245

reversible heat-sensitive paper, whereby two dimensional information is written.

Kindly add the following new claims:

6. (new) A method of writing information on a reversible heat-sensitive paper, comprising the steps of:

providing a reversible heat-sensitive paper comprising a reversible heat-sensitive recording layer that comprises an electron donative precursor and a reversible developer that colors and uncolors the electron donative precursor, formed on a supporting base;

irradiating the reversible heat-sensitive paper with light to heat the paper;

selectively cooling a first portion of the paper at a relatively slower rate to produce an uncolored portion; and

selectively cooling a second portion of the paper at a relatively faster rate to produce a colored portion.

7. (new) A paper according to claim 1, having no opto-thermal conversion layer.